



# This Month in Search and Rescue

Cochise County Sheriff's Office

May 2010



## Busy, busy, busy.

The month of April did have a busy start, Between back to back or simultaneous missions, everything happened. On 4/1/10 we received the report of a deceased individual discovered by Border Patrol around 2145 hours. Initially we were told the subject was in the area of Ash Canyon in very rough terrain. Border Patrol was asked for GPS coordinates, which were given and they were also told we would not be responding at this time of night. When the GPS coordinates were inputted into the map data, we discovered the individual was located on the south side within the park. Sgt Noland, Raul, Art, Jim F and Angela responded and we found out the terrain was impossible for only a few subject to conduct this technical carry out. The terrain was pretty steep having an approximate degree of 48% to 75%. Sgt. Noland contacted the State SAR Coordinator and was given permission to utilize DPS Ranger for this recovery. The recovery was scheduled for Saturday 4/3/10 at the same time we scheduled our evidence search. It was supposed to be quick—did not happen. Tucson Ranger was out all night

and Phoenix was running late. Once Phoenix arrived, the recovery went rather quickly, but David, Art and Raul did not make it to the evidence search until late in the afternoon.

We assisted detectives with an evidence search and one team was very successful. I have to thank everyone who showed up, quite a few people, for their endless efforts in trying to find the very important evidence. One of the team came across the items on their way back.

Some of the team members, whom I owe a dinner to.



Cat and Jay on their way to check on one of the teams, with whom we lost radio contact.



Sandra at her communications post.



Randy and Sandra had to find some elevation, in order to communicate with teams in the field, until Tom used the big stick antenna. The MCU, who covered another search team also had to re-locate in order to communicate with one of the other teams working

south. I truly thank each and everyone of the members for their hard work, and for giving up a long Saturday. Everything was worth it. Especially since we found what we were looking for and we could not have done this without your help.

“Values are like fingerprints. Nobody’s are the same, but you leave ‘em all over everything you do.”

Elvis Presley



Breaking down the command post.

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## Search Mission 4/1 3/2010

We received the initial call for this search mission around midnight. The friend of the victim was called before 5PM on 4/12 by the victim telling her she was lost and was hiking down a wash. She was somewhere in the area near Douglas. We also received information she might be in an area where there was snow. No exact location was provided. David contacted Randy Haws and Roy Cook in an attempt to locate the vehi-

cle. Since we needed a starting point. Lt Cook located the vehicle in the area of Turkey Creek, the very last spot they searched. The victim's car was parked at the Saulsbury Canyon trail head. We discussed the various options and or possibilities and concluded she might have gotten off trail and was heading down Rock Canyon. David subsequently sent Terry Porter to the trail head as a trail block and he came across

our victim. She was one of the few individuals, whom was actually prepared to possibly spend the night, she had food, to include food for the dog and she was able to find shelter and built a fire. The picture associated with this story are the curtsey of Kim on of the responding rescuers.



**"Additional Problems are the offspring of poor decisions."**

## Technical Rescue Training for the remainder of the year

April 17: Knots, rappelling, lock offs and ascending—Lower Carr by the bridge-rescheduled

May 1: Classroom Foot-hills Station 0800 Wilderness preparedness and Field pack review

June 5: Swift Water Rodeo and for the not so water loving folks we will hold a class at Lower Miller Canyon—Vortex and systems on the ground plus other things you feel we need to cover

July 17: Upper Carr Canyon—Vortex/ Systems

Aug 7: Upper Carr—Vortex incorporating the stokes

Sept 11: Anchors natural and man made 687D-A West Stronghold

Oct 2: Night time set up of the Vortex and related systems 687D-A West Stronghold

Nov 6: Class on rappelling, ascending, improvised harnesses and switching ropes-687D-B (West cliff from 687D-A)

Dec 11: Vortex training 687D-C (end of jeep trail.



We might not find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, but we sure find a lot of friends in SAR.

## Technical Rescue Training cancelled- assisted Hildago County, NM instead with a search mission

This mission was called around 2100 hours. New Mexico, Hildago County requested our assistance in the search for a 74 year old missing female, suffering from dementia. She was last seen by neighbors around 1500 hours and did not return home by 1700 hours. Family and friends started to look for her before calling Hildago County SO and subsequently us. Randy, Raul, Jim, Angela and Larry were the initial responding individuals from our team. I got there around 0330 hours. They had quite a few teams in the field, but no mapping software indicated their positions. The PLS was also not indicated on the map. The SAR Coordinator for NM, Randy and I went to the home to make contact with the husband, which was negative. We did check the garage with negative contact. We also checked some corrals and saw her footprint in a wash. Returning to CP a team was diverted to continue checking this wash. Around 0730 hours, this team had a visual on the missing person.



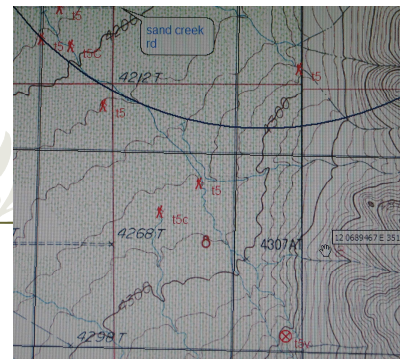
Working the mapping software. NM uses UTM's, and Jim used Lat/Lon, therefore we had to switch back and forth, but it worked.



The female was extremely hypothermic and had sustained some injuries from falling and walking through some real rough terrain. She also had lost one of her shoes, and her foot was injured with blisters and cuts.



Not only did we have the search mission, we ended up conducting a carry out. Good thing Raul brought the tech truck with all the equipment. Hildago county did have a UTV, but they were unable to get to the victim, due to the very rocky—very large rock terrain. Hence the carry out.



Arrival at the ambulance, who transported the victim to a hospital in Silver City. We had learned Hildago County had looked for the same female three times in the past week. I hope they get some type of tracking device on her.



Some of the folks who assisted in the search, missing are Raul, Larry, Angela and Jim.

Our victim was found approximately 1.651 miles due south from her home. If the one search team would not have located her, some of the other team working Sky Ranch Rd would have eventually come across her path. Thankfully everything worked out fine and we were happy we could assist. Thanks, Raul, Randy, Angela, Jim and Larry—including all the NM SAR members.

We were able to guide the team pretty much directly to the victim

**When in doubt, ask.**

**When not in doubt, ask.**

**-If you are not in doubt, you may be kidding yourself.**

**In any situation, ask yourself: What strengths do I possess that can contribute towards accomplishing something in this situation? Then follow through"**



**Every now and then we must stop and smell the flowers.**

## SAR member provides assistance to gun shot victim.

Story as provided to Raul Limon by Ted Morris.

Today after work (about 4:45 p.m.) I had just parked at Lowe's, intending to get some gardening supplies, and I heard a bang about 100 feet away from me. Apparently I was so zoned out that I thought nothing of it. Then I heard a man crying out in pain and I also heard the word "gunshot," and I began to look around for shooters. We occasionally have that in Sierra Vista.

I cautiously approached the victim, who was writhing in agony on the ground next to his car, and I asked him what happened. He said he had accidentally shot himself while disarming the gun. Between his continual cries of pain he expressed harsh feelings toward himself about his stupidity in this incident.

He had shot himself in the left thigh while sitting in his car, then he tumbled out onto the asphalt where we bystanders encountered him.

I saw the blood and took off my long-sleeve, white dress shirt. Bleached, starched and pressed. A \$14 improvised bandage from Sears

I didn't want this guy bleeding to death on such a small account. Ultimately, he did not bleed very much at the scene. He was in a lot of pain that seemed to intensify with the passing minutes.

I tried to comfort him by squeezing his shoulder and urging him not to damn himself for this forgettable mistake. At one point he said he was losing consciousness. A woman bystander asked me to keep him talking. I asked the man his name. David Luna. Age 23. From Tucson. He seemed like a clean-cut kid. I doubt if he was a gang banger or other type of criminal.

Another man had called 911 and was on the phone with the dispatcher. The police soon arrived and took over the scene. An ambulance came and took a long time to stabilize the patient, whose pain never seemed to subside. Evidently it was a serious enough injury that a medical helicopter had to be brought in. The chopper landed in the parking lot, inside a cordon of police vehicles.

Before the bird arrived, I stood near the ground medics and police officers as they worked on the patient. A police officer walked up and shook my hand and the hand of another man, who was also there when this thing unfolded. The second man was a Vietnam War veteran from Bisbee, had served as a door gunner on choppers. His name was also David. He expected the event might stir some old memories in him. We had a pleasant conversation and went on our way.

## PERSONAL EQUIPMENT—24 HR PACK

First Aid Kit

Space Blanket

Water 2-4 qts

Flashlight

Food, candy, nuts, jerky

Mirror (metal)

Flame light

Paper and Pencil

Map of area

Scissors or shears

Camera

Poncho or trash bags

Cord 1/4"

Toilet tissue

Compass / GPS

2 locking carabineers (can be aluminum to reduce weight)

Lighter and matches

Fuel cells

Dental floss

Flares, smoke

Knife, forceps, or tweezers

Hand soap, antiseptic

Surveyors tape

Thread and needle

Fishing line and hook

Binoculars

Leatherman

Extra batteries

Comb

Whistle

20 feet of 1 inch tubular webbing

# MAY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1 Tech Training Classroom Foot- hills station</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Meeting</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 Dry Tng dive/ tender 1800-</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Dive Training Parker Canyon Lake</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31 Memorial Day</b>					

# June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 Meeting</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Swift Water Rodeo and Tech training. Also Safety Day in</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 Willcox1000 to 1400</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19 Training</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			